

1 KINGS

THE DECLINE OF ISRAEL BEGINS

THE NAME: "KINGS"

- * 1 and 2 Kings originally were one book.
- * In the Hebrew Bible the book of Kings continued the narrative started in Samuel.
- * The Septuagint separated them into two parts. We derive our English title "Kings" from Jerome's Vulgate, the Latin translation of the Bible.

AUTHORSHIP & FACTS

- * One No one knows the author of 1 and 2 Kings, though some commentators have suggested Ezra, Ezekiel, and Jeremiah as possible authors.
- * Because the entire work encompasses a time period of more than 400 years, several source materials were used to compile the records.
- * **CHAPTERS:** 22
- * **VERSES:** 816

ITS PLACE IN HISTORY

- * The events that happen in 1 Kings took place over a period of about 120 years.
- * While 2 Samuel begins with the death of King Saul, 1 Kings begins with the death of King David.
- * King Saul died by apparent suicide on the battlefield.
- * But David died in his bed and was buried in Jerusalem.
- * 1 Kings - stretches from the beginning of Solomon's reign (971 BC) through the reign of Ahaziah (851 BC)
- * The year that assumes significance in this period is 931 BC - the year the United Kingdom under David and Solomon gets Divided in two:
 1. The Northern Kingdom of ISRAEL - 10 Tribes
 2. The Southern Kingdom of Judah - 2 Tribes

GENERAL OVERVIEW

I. Death of David, **Chapters 1, 2**

A. Adonijah's Plans foiled and Solomon is crowned as King - Chapter 1

B. David's Counsel to Solomon, David's death & change of Guard - Chapter 2

II. Glory of Solomon's reign, **Chapters 3-11**

A. Solomon's prayer for wisdom, Chapters 3, 4

B. Building of the Temple, Chapters 5-8

C. Fame of Solomon, Chapters 9, 10

D. Shame and death of Solomon, 1 Kings 11

III. Division of the kingdom into Judah & Israel **Chapters 12 - 15**

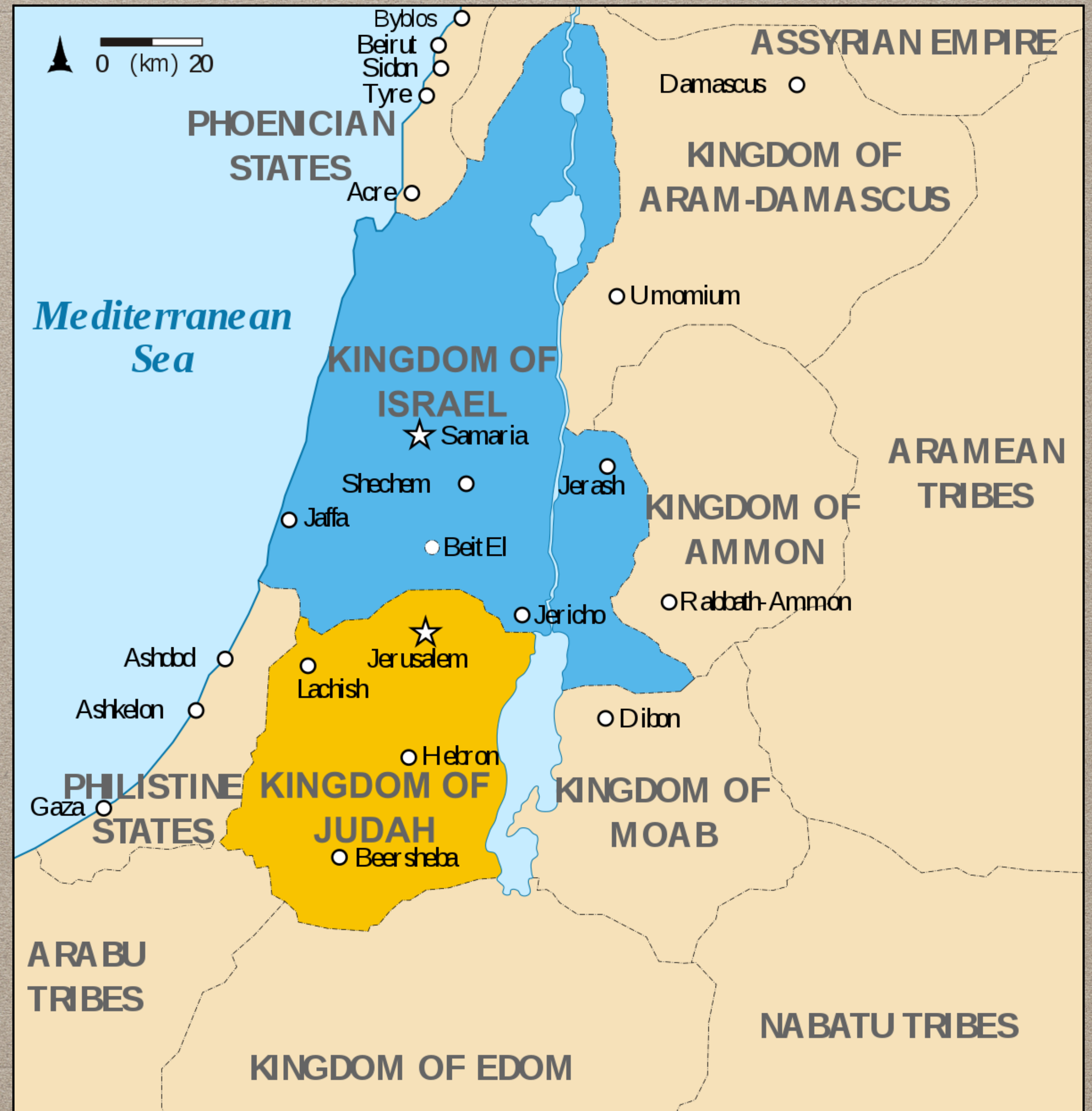
IV. The Entry of Elijah & Conflict with King Ahab **Chapter 16 - 21**

V. The Death of Ahab **Chapter 22**

THE KINGDOM OF JUDAH & ISRAEL

- * Samuel anointed Saul from the tribe of Benjamin as the first king - 12 tribes unite to form the United Kingdom of Israel & Judah
- * Saul's reign was curtailed and his kingdom given to another dynasty.
- * David from the tribe of Judah - chosen by God and anointed by the prophet Samuel.
- * Saul's heir, Ishbosheth took over rulership of 11 tribes of Israel after the death of his father and 3 brothers
- * David becomes King of the tribe of Judah
- * Ishbosheth ruled for only two years before he was assassinated.
- * After Ishbosheth's death - David becomes king of the United Kingdom (12 Tribes of Israel)
- * Solomon, David's son and successor, maintained the unified monarchy for 40 years
- * During the reign of Rehoboam, Solomon's son, the country split into 2 kingdoms: the Northern Kingdom of Israel (10 northern tribes and including the cities of Shechem and Samaria) and the Southern Kingdom of Judah (Jerusalem as Capital).
- * The Northern Kingdom of Israel is ruled by 19 kings. The Southern Kingdom of Judah was ruled by 19 kings + 1 Queen
- * The Northern Kingdom of Israel is ruled by 5 different dynasties (family lines). The Southern Kingdom of Judah was a single dynasty (the Blood line of David)
- * Most of the Kings of Israel and Judah was characterized by their constant disobedience to God - turning to Idolatry
- * The Kingdom of Israel (or Northern Kingdom, a.k.a. Samaria and Ephraim) was conquered by the Assyrian Empire (731 BC)
- * The Kingdom of Judah (or Southern Kingdom) was conquered by the Babylonian Empire. (586 BC)

THE DIVIDED KINGDOM



KINGS OF THE
DIVIDED KINGDOMS (1 KINGS)

		KING SAUL		
		KING DAVID		
		KING SOLOMON		
Kings of Judah (Southern Kingdom)			Kings of Israel (Northern Kingdom)	
REHOBOAM - Son of Solomon	17 yrs	JEROBOAM - Led the Separation of Israel		22 yrs
ABIJAH - Son of Rehoboam	3 yrs			
ASA - Son of Abijah	41 yrs	NADAB - Son of Jeroboam		2 yrs
		BASHA - Overthrows Nadab		24 yrs
		ELAH - Son of Bashsa		2 yrs
		ZIMRI - Overthrows Elah		7 days
		OMRI - Overthrows Zimri		12 yrs
JEHOSHAPHAT - Son of Asa	25 yrs	AHAB - Son of Omri (Husband of Jezebel)		21 yrs
		AHAZIAH - Son of Ahab		1
JEHORAM - Son of Jehoshaphat (Husband of Athaliah)	8	JEHORAM - Son of Ahab		11 yrs
AHAZIAH - Son of Jehoram	1			

THE DIVIDED KINGDOM



THE FALL OF KING SOLOMON

1. LIMITLESS INCREASE

- * **Gold and silver:** Solomon accumulated enormous quantities of silver and gold (1Kings 10:14-21,27).
- * **Thousands of horses:** Solomon's stock and trade in horses from Egypt was huge (1Kings 10:26,28-29).
- * **A thousand wives:** 700 wives (the daughters of foreign kings) and 300 concubines (1Kings 11:1-3).
- * In the law given by Moses, God anticipated the desire of the future nation to have a king.
- * God made a law for every king - **Deuteronomy 17:14-20**
 - * *"The king shall **not multiply horses** for himself, nor shall he cause the people to return to Egypt to multiply horses..."*
 - * *"Neither shall he **multiply wives** for himself lest his heart turn away..."*
 - * *"Nor shall he greatly **multiply silver and gold** for himself..."*
 - * *"When the king sits on the throne... he shall write for himself a copy of this law on a scroll... And it shall be with him, and he shall read it all the days of his life... carefully observing all the words of this law... that he may not turn aside from the commandment"*

Proverbs 30:7-9 - 7 Two *things* I request of You (Deprive me not before I die): 8 Remove falsehood and lies far from me; Give me neither poverty nor riches— Feed me with the food allotted to me; 9 Lest I be full and deny You, And say, "Who is the Lord?" Or lest I be poor and steal, And profane the name of my God.

THE FALL OF KING SOLOMON

2. LIBERAL THEOLOGY

* 1 Kings 6:4-13

* Solomon erected temples to Ashtoreth, Milcom, and Chemosh.

* He was broad in his views, far advanced from the traditional knowledge of the age, and often compromised his faith.

* King David his father had already warned him about the temptation of Apostasy and Backsliding from God:

1 Kings 2:3-4 - And keep the charge of the Lord your God: to walk in His ways, to keep His statutes, His commandments, His judgments, and His testimonies, as it is written in the Law of Moses, that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn; that the Lord may fulfill His word which He spoke concerning me, saying, 'If your sons take heed to their way, to walk before Me in truth with all their heart and with all their soul,' He said, 'you shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.'

* "Do not be deceived: 'Bad company corrupts good morals'" (1 Corinthians 15:33).

* "Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness?" (2 Corinthians 6:14).

* "So the Lord said to Solomon, 'Because you have done this, and you have not kept My covenant and My statutes, which I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom from you, and will give it to your servant'" (1 Kings 11:11).

THE FALL OF KING SOLOMON

3. THE ABUSE OF POWER

- * He appears to have copied the Pharaohs not only in magnificence, but in disregard for human suffering - multitudes were tasked to fell timber in the forests, or hew stone in the quarries.
- * Even the Israelites had to do forced labour.
- * Though Solomon constructed the temple, it was not a major expense as David — who was forbidden from building it — had already gathered most of the material needed and even had the workmen in place (1 Chronicles 22:2-4).
- * Building of the Temple, **Chapters 5-8**
- * **30,000 Israelites, 150,000 Canaanites, 550 overseers, and 3500 subordinates.**
- * Rather it was the construction of a second palace that became the root of the problem.
- * Solomon was not content to live in his father's house and built a huge palace to house his 700 wives and 300 concubines (1 Kings 7:1-11).

THE FALL OF KING SOLOMON

Solomon builds other structures:

- His own palace — 13 years in building (v. 1),
 - House of the forest of Lebanon (v. 2),
 - Palace for the daughter of Pharaoh (v. 8),
 - Pillars for the porch of the Temple (v. 21),
 - Molten sea for the Temple (v. 23),
 - Ten lavers of brass (v. 38), and
 - Articles of furniture for the Temple (vs. 48, 49).
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- * It took 13 years to construct his palace, compared to just 7 years for the temple.
 - * PHARAOH'S DOWRY FOR HIS DAUGHTER - I Kings 9:15-17
 - * The result was the Oppression of People for his pleasure
 - * Untamed desires led to his downfall that spilled over his successive generations
 - * It ultimately led to the division of his kingdom into two.

CHAPTER-WISE SUMMARY

Chapter 1 – David becomes weak and bedridden. Adonijah, a son of David, takes advantage of his father's condition and makes a bid for the throne. David anoints Solomon under pressure from Nathan and Bathsheba.

Chapter 2 – David's charge to Solomon ([vs. 2, 3](#)) reveals his attitude toward Solomon. Charging him to show himself a man reveals that David had little confidence in a successor who had been reared in the palace comforts, luxury, and ease.

David's death injects a sad note into the record: Adonijah's treachery is revealed in his request to Bathsheba. Adonijah is slain, Abiathar removed from the priesthood, and Joab flees but is captured and slain. Solomon made Benaiah captain and Zadok priest. Shimei, of the house of Saul, who cursed David, is executed. II. Glory of Solomon's reign,

Chapter 3 –

Solomon was married to the daughter of Pharaoh, but at this time he loved the Lord ([v. 3](#)). The spirit of compromise is evident in this marriage as well as his failure to remove idolatry from the land. Solomon prayed for wisdom. Evidently he was praying for political wisdom and not spiritual discernment.

Chapter 4 –

Peace and prosperity became a reality ([vs. 20, 25, 26](#)). Solomon was a prince of peace, while David was a man of war. Solomon became famous because of his wisdom. Note the areas in which he was a specialist (see [vs. 32-34](#)).

Chapter 5 –

Solomon engages Hiram, King of Tyre, to build the Temple. His workers were the greatest builders of that day. The building required 30,000 Israelites, 150,000 Canaanites, 550 overseers, and 3500 subordinates.

CHAPTER-WISE SUMMARY

Chapter 6 – Solomon begins to build the Temple. It was patterned after the wilderness Tabernacle but was about twice as large. It was more ornate, elaborate, and costly. The striking feature of the construction of the Temple is stated in [verse 7](#). It took 7 years to build the Temple ([v. 38](#)). Many other buildings surrounded the Temple proper. The estimated cost of the Temple is \$2,450,000,000 to \$4,900,000,000.

Chapter 7 – Solomon builds other structures: His own palace – 13 years in building ([v. 1](#)), House of the forest of Lebanon ([v. 2](#)), Palace for the daughter of Pharaoh ([v. 8](#)), Pillars for the porch of the Temple ([v. 21](#)), Molten sea for the Temple ([v. 23](#)), Ten lavers of brass ([v. 38](#)), and Articles of furniture for the Temple ([vs. 48, 49](#)).

Chapter 8 – The glory of the Lord fills the Temple after the ark is brought from the Tabernacle and installed inside the Holy of Holies ([vs. 10, 11](#)).

Chapter 9 – God appears to Solomon the second time ([v. 2](#)) and encourages his heart. God sets up David, a very human standard, by which to measure the kings that followed him ([v. 4](#)). The fame of Solomon spreads throughout the world. Hiram was not happy with the payment for material that Solomon made to him ([v. 12](#)).

Chapter 10 – The visit of the queen of Sheba reveals that Solomon had succeeded in witnessing for God to the world of that day (see also [v. 24](#)). Solomon's fame had spread, and obviously multitudes were coming to Jerusalem to worship the living and true God ([v. 1](#)).

Chapter 11 – Solomon is the most colossal failure on the pages of Scripture. He had the greatest opportunity of any man who ever lived. He began by failing to remove false religion ([1 Kings 3:3](#)). He has a harem of 1000 wives ([vs. 1-3](#)). The Lord was angry with Solomon ([v. 9](#)). The kingdom is to be divided as a judgment from God, yet it would not happen in Solomon's day – for David's sake ([vs. 12, 13](#)). Jeroboam is promoted by Solomon but plots to lead the ten northern tribes in revolt according to the word of Ahijah the prophet ([vs. 29-31](#)). When Solomon discovers this, he attempts to slay Jeroboam who flees to Egypt until the death of Solomon. The death of Solomon concludes the chapter. He reigned 40 years.

CHAPTER-WISE SUMMARY

Chapter 12 – Rehoboam, son of Solomon, succeeds to the throne. Jeroboam returns from Egypt and leads ten tribes in demanding a reduction in taxes. Rehoboam, under the influence of the young men of his kingdom, having rejected the counsel of the old men who were Solomon's advisors, turns down the request of the ten northern tribes. Instead of reducing taxes, he threatens to raise them ([vs. 10, 11](#)). Therefore, Jeroboam leads the ten tribes in revolt. First Kings was written during the time of the division of the kingdom ([v. 19](#)). Jeroboam divides the nation religiously as well as politically by setting up a golden calf in Bethel and one in the tribe of Dan. The northern tribes go into idolatry ([vs. 28-30](#)).

Chapter 13 – God grants Jeroboam another chance by sending a prophet to him with a warning and a sign. Jeroboam seems to repent at the time, but finally plunges into total apostasy.

Chapter 14 – Ahijah the prophet pronounces judgment on Jeroboam and measures him according to David ([v. 8](#)). Rehoboam king of Judah led the people into idolatry and sin. There was an abnormal increase of homosexuality ([v. 24](#)). Shishak, king of Egypt, came against Jerusalem and captured it. He took as booty the gold shields that Solomon had on display. Rehoboam substitutes shields of brass. There was deterioration in the kingdom now as well as division. Rehoboam, the son of Solomon, dies.

Chapter 15 – Abijam, son of Rehoboam, succeeded his father on the throne of Judah. He was as wicked as his father ([v. 3](#)). David continues as the standard of excellence for the kings of both Israel and Judah ([v. 5](#)). (Jeroboam became the standard of evil for the kings of the northern kingdom.) Abijam did nothing worthy of mention, either good or bad; his death is recorded here. Asa succeeded Abijam in the southern kingdom of Judah. Asa compares to David ([v. 11](#)). He led in the first revival of the nation. Asa did have to bribe Ben-hadad, king of Syria, and he warred with Israel continually. Jehoshaphat succeeded Asa as king of Judah. Nadab, son of Jeroboam, succeeded him as king of Israel. He was evil ([v. 26](#)). Baasha led a conspiracy against him, slew him, and reigned in his stead ([vs. 27, 28](#)). Baasha continued war against Asa ([v. 32](#)).

CHAPTER-WISE SUMMARY

Chapter 16 – Baasha's evil reign lasted for twenty-four years. Elah his son succeeded him but reigned only two years. Zimri, a captain, slew Elah while he was drunk. Zimri destroyed every male member of the house of Baasha. He reigned only seven days, for Omri, captain of the host of Israel, besieged Tirzah and captured it. Zimri committed suicide by burning down the house in which he was. The northern kingdom was divided between Omri and Tibni for four years. Tibni died and Omri reigned alone for eight years. Omri built Samaria and made it the capital of the northern kingdom. He plunged Israel into the depths of evil (v. 25). His pattern was Jeroboam (v. 26). Ahab, son of Omri, succeeded him (v. 28). He was worse than his father; he was the worst king of all (v. 30). He compounded evil by marrying Jezebel, the daughter of Ethbaal, king of the Zidonians and high priest of Baal. What evil designs Ahab did not think of, Jezebel did.

Chapter 17 – Elijah the prophet is introduced by his walking into the court of Ahab and Jezebel and making a very brave announcement – no rain for three years but according to the word of Elijah. Then he departs in just such a dramatic fashion. He retires to the brook Cherith where he is fed by ravens and drinks of the brook until it dries up.

Chapter 18 – Elijah challenges the prophets of Baal (vs. 21-24). It is Elijah versus 450 prophets of Baal. After slaying the prophets of Baal, he announces the approach of a rainstorm from out over the Mediterranean Sea.

Chapter 19 – Ahab reports to Jezebel that Elijah had slain all her prophets of Baal. She vows to kill Elijah. He beat a cowardly retreat to Beersheba, where he left his servant, and continued on into the wilderness to crawl under a juniper tree where he requested that he might die. Then the Lord rebuked him and treated him to a spectacular display: **(1)** strong wind – but God was not in the wind; **(2)** earthquake – but God was not in the earthquake; **(3)** fire – but God was not in the fire. Elijah loved all of this. Then came the still small voice. This is contrary to Elijah, but God was in the still small voice. Elijah returns to the scene of action and danger. On the way, he calls Elisha.

CHAPTER-WISE SUMMARY

Chapter 20 – God grants to Ahab another opportunity of turning to Him. A prophet of God promises victory to Ahab over the Syrians. God grants the victory, which seemed impossible. Again the prophet warns Ahab that the king of Syria will return, but God will give him another victory. God granted this victory also, but Ahab failed to obey God by sparing Ben-hadad. Judgment of God is pronounced upon Ahab (v. 42).

Chapter 21 – Ahab attempts to buy the vineyard of Naboth, but Naboth refuses to sell. Jezebel promises to get the vineyard. She has Naboth slain through a dastardly plot. Ahab is overjoyed and goes to claim the vineyard. God sends Elijah to meet Ahab and pronounce judgment upon him (v. 19). Just as Naboth died, Ahab will die, and the dogs will lick his blood in the same place. Ahab repents in a measure, and God delays judgment but does not revoke the sentence upon Ahab and Jezebel.

Chapter 22 – It is strange that Jehoshaphat would become an ally of Ahab, but his son married a daughter of Ahab and Jezebel (2 Kings 8:16-18). Before making war against Syria, Jehoshaphat, who had real spiritual discernment, asked that a prophet of God be called (vs. 5, 7). Micaiah, a prophet of God, is called (vs. 8, 9). The prophets of Baal had already told Ahab what he wanted to hear. Micaiah at first resorted to sarcasm and comedy (v. 15). Then Micaiah gave a ridiculous parable. Imagine God asking any creature for advice (vs. 20-23). This was a subtle way of calling the false prophets of Baal liars. Ahab orders him kept in prison until he returns from battle. Micaiah had one parting shot (v. 28). Ahab will not return alive. Ahab uses a clever and crooked device to escape from being killed in battle. He wore the uniform of a common soldier, while Jehoshaphat was the only one dressed as a king. Ahab did not escape. The prophecy of Elijah was fulfilled (vs. 37, 38). Ahaziah, his son, succeeded him. Jehoshaphat returned home a sadder but wiser man. He refused to make a further alliance with Ahaziah (v. 49). First Kings closes with the two-year reign of Ahaziah who walked in the steps of his father, Ahab.